

Wisconsin's Aquaculture Sales Grew by \$1.80 Million

The 2005 Census of Aquaculture revealed that sales of aquaculture products raised on Wisconsin farms totaled \$7.03 million, a 34 percent increase from 1998. The 2005 count was the second nationwide aquaculture census conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Baitfish raised and sold by Wisconsin farmers, at \$3.89 million, accounted for 55 percent of the aquaculture sales. Compared to 1998, baitfish sales were up by \$1.44 million, a 59 percent jump. The category of food fish was second in line with \$1.95 million in sales. Food fish sales declined \$130,000 from 1998, a 6 percent drop. Sport fish sales were not published to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. For comparison, sales of sport fish, ornamental fish, crustaceans, mollusks and miscellaneous aquaculture were \$1.19 million in 2005 compared to \$695,000 in 1998. The majority of farms, 33 of 36, in the combined categories had sport fish sales.

In Wisconsin, 84 farms satisfied the aquaculture farm definition of \$1,000 or more in aquaculture sales per year, compared to 95 in 1998. Groundwater was used by 48 farms as a source of water while 54 farms used on-farm surface water. Ponds, used on 68 farms, were the most common method of production followed by flow through raceways, used on 29 farms.

The most popular baitfish produced and sold on Wisconsin farms were fathead minnows, accounting for \$1.62 million in sales. Producers reported selling 105 million of the minnows. Golden shiner sales, at \$993,000, were second, followed by suckers at \$725,000.

Trout, with sales at \$1.58 million, is the most populous category sold primarily for food, with 81 percent of the total food sales. Both the number of trout farms and the total sales declined from 1998. Farms, at 46, were down 9, and sales, at \$1.58 million, a \$108,000 reduction. Trout are predominantly sold in the food size category and hauled in \$1.30 million.

Perch were the second most popular food fish raised and sold in Wisconsin. Twenty-nine perch farms sold perch of all sizes for \$204,000. The food size category netted sales at \$93,000, followed closely by sales of fingerlings and fry, at \$87,000.

A variety of sport fish were raised and sold by Wisconsin farms in 2005. Walleyes were raised on 16 farms and sales accumulated to \$291,000. The majority of income from walleyes was derived from selling fingerlings and fry, at \$190,000, followed by stockers, at \$93,000. Sunfish, including bluegills, were raised on 24 farms and total sales were \$167,000. Sales totals for fingerlings and fry were highest, at \$74,000 followed closely by sales of stockers at \$71,000. The largest first point of sales for sport fish producers was fee and recreational fishing operations followed by direct to consumer sales, which includes sales for home consumption and use in private ponds.

In 2005, Wisconsin producers released or distributed an estimated 49.9 million walleyes for restoration or conservation purposes. Second most numerous released or distributed were trout at 5.90 million, including 847,000 rainbow and steelhead and 5.05 million other trout. Third on the list was northern pike, at 4.41 million fish, followed by salmon at 3.10 million.

At the National level, aquaculture production is a billion-dollar industry, with sales of fish, shellfish and related products growing by 12 percent over the past seven years. The census shows that between 1998 and 2005, sales of aquaculture products grew from \$978 million to \$1.109 billion.

Census results show that food fish-including catfish, perch, salmon, hybrid striped bass, tilapia and trout - accounted for 62 percent of all aquaculture sales in 2005. Mollusks-including abalone, clams, mussels and oysters-comprised 19 percent of 2005 sales. Crustaceans, such as lobsters and shrimp, and ornamental fish, such as koi and tropical fish, each accounted for approximately 5 percent of sales. They were followed by baitfish, at 3 percent and sport fish, at 2 percent.

Complete results of the 2005 Census of Aquaculture are available online at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/aquaculture/>. Thanks to all the aquaculture producers for helping us complete the 2005 Census of Aquaculture!

Census of Aquaculture, Wisconsin, 1998 and 2005

Item	Number of farms		Sales (\$1,000)	
	1998	2005	1998	2005
Total	95	84	5,226	7,025
Baitfish	19	14	2,455	3,892
Fathead minnows	15	11	1,243	1,617
Golden shiners	5	6	224	993
Suckers	n.a.	6	n.a.	725
Food fish	81	70	2,075	1,945
Trout	55	46	1,688	1,580
Perch	n.a.	29	n.a.	204
Sport fish	26	33	265	(D)
Walleye	16	16	125	291
Sunfish	n.a.	24	(D)	167
Northern Pike	n.a.	5	n.a.	71

N.a.=not available. D=withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Aquaculture Products Distributed for Conservation, Recreation, or Restoration Purposes Wisconsin, 2005

Item	Number (1,000)
Walleye	49,899
Trout	5,898
Rainbow & Steelhead	847
Other	5,051
Northern Pike	4,407
Salmon	3,099

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.